



Southeast Shortline 568-2X

TOWN OF SPINDALE

PO Box 186 ♦ 125 Reveley Street ♦ Spindale, NC 28160

November 3, 2015

Office of Environmental Analysis (OEA)
Surface Transportation Board
1925 K Street, NW
Washington, DC 20423

Re: Docket Numbers AB-568 (Sub-No. 2X) and AB-568 (Sub-No. 2X)

Gentlemen:

The Town of Spindale is aware that Southeast Shortlines, Inc., d/b/a Thermal Belt Railway, and Rutherford Railroad Development Corporation will be filing a Verified Notice of Exemption with the Surface Transportation Board (STB) to discontinue service on, and to abandon, respectively, the line between Milepost 175.5 near Alexander Mills (28043) and Milepost 180.47 in Spindale (28160), a distance of approximately 4.97 miles in Rutherford County, North Carolina.

It is our understanding that these 4.97 miles will be joined with the existing 8.59 miles of abandoned rail that starts in Spindale and continues west to Gilkey and will ultimately create a 13.56 mile "rails to trails" corridor in Rutherford County. The Town of Spindale is a supporter and partner in this effort to expand the current "rails to trails" corridor to include the aforementioned section of line.

Please accept the Town of Spindale's full endorsement of abandonment. The Town looks forward to the possible expansion of this great countywide recreational asset and to the many benefits it will bring to the residents of Rutherford County.

Sincerely,

Mickey Bland
Mayor

CC: Jeff Bandini
jeffbandini@parkerpoe.com